

- Historical Preservation
- Women Firefighters
- Meet Patti McCubbins
- Grandmothers Share Earthly Wisdom
- Donate — It Feels Good
- Events — Participate & Enjoy
- Meeting Schedule
- Traditions & Giving



Source: www.wfsi.org/women_and_firefighting/history.php

Free Speech

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Women in Montana's History

The Montana Historical Society has a collection or portions of collections created by women who lived in Montana in the 1800s. Many of these collections are simply letters, such as, Josephine McCrellis Baily who wrote to Sarah Kee about Montana and invited her to come to Montana as a private teacher; Evelyn and Ewen Camerons' Manuscript collection that consists of letters, postcards, 35 diaries, poems, clippings, photographs, and scrapbook; or Helen P. Clarke whose collection consists of correspondence and biographical materials as the Montana Superintendent of Schools and teacher for the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. These writings are gifts passed forward for those who love history. Such writings also give women of the

future strength and perseverance.

Alvie Nave Kaiser's diary tells of her marriage to rancher Edward Kaiser and her life as a homemaker in a Myersburg area homestead. Her reminiscence is no less important than the Edgerton Manuscript Collection containing documents from Mary Edgerton, the first



Mary Edgerton

Governor's Wife. Montana's history is rich and colorful not only for the miners, ranchers, and cowboys. Many of the collections describe women who traveled to Montana with their families or married men who wanted to experience the "wild west".

Women played a monumental importance then as they do now. As women of Montana, we contribute greatly and should preserve our lives here. Hopefully the Historical Society will have a collection from the 20th and 21st centuries of the women of Montana. This thought brings to mind — "A generation which ignores history has no past and no future." — Robert Anson Heinlein. Let's celebrate women and keep our voices alive as long as our historical preservation continues.

For an alphabetical listing of this collection, Nineteenth Century Women, you may review it at <http://his.state.mt.us/research/library/pamphlets/>

"A morsel of genuine history is a thing so rare as to be always valuable."
— Thomas Jefferson

Job Well Done

Women have been fire fighters for longer than most people realize: in fact, for almost 200 years. The first woman firefighter first known is Molly Williams, who was a slave in NYC and became a member of Oceanus Engine Company #11 in about 1815.

During World War II, many women across the country en-

tered the volunteer fire service to take the place of men who had been called into the military. The first women in the postwar period known to have been paid for fire suppression work were wildland firefighting crews working for the USFS & BLM. An all women BLM crew worked on fires in Alaska during the summer of 1971, and a crew of USFS women worked that year and the following year in Montana.

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In 2007, a sizable amount of women firefighters assisted in the suppression of the wildfires in Montana. The women who participated this year should be commended for their dedication and assistance in a very long hot summer in Montana. Thank you.

Celebrate Women

Patti McCubbins grew up in an era where she married young and had a family. However, she later went to college to earn a degree in education; however, mid-stream changed it to human services.

Patti has been a teacher for special education students, which was sometimes very disheartening. She has also been a program manager for various programs, such as, high school level employment training; human resource counselor for employment, training, and housing for pregnant teenage moms; summer forest service crews; managed the FAME program; and rural employment opportunities for men to transition away from farming and ranching.

One of her most rewarding posi-

tions was as the project director of a homeless shelter. She implemented this program for three years. The homeless shelter had 32 beds for men; 8 for women and a wing for veterans to transition, which were low income apartments. She left this position because it took up a great deal of her time, and her three children wanted to see more of their mom.

Patti thought back at how she exposed her children to be aware of their own blessings by spending a thanksgiving dinner with pregnant teen moms or serving at the homeless shelter. Her children are now grown, 28, 26, and 25 with a better sense of compassion for those that have less.

Patti has been working with the Department of Labor and Industry

for six years as the program manager of the Navigator Disabilities Program, the Foreign Worker Program and the Bonding Program. She has staff in local offices extending the service portion of the programs. However, that is something that Patti sometimes misses — the personal contact of helping others.

Patti is always challenging textbooks. She states, “the world is my teacher.” Most of the jobs she has held are typically a “man’s job”, and she is proud to say that she has done many of them well. Those jobs impacted on people’s lives who have barriers and difficulties in life, and that was where the joy and fulfillment was the most rewarding.

Patti resides in Helena now with her basset hound, Daisy Mae.

“The world is my teacher.”

- Patti

McCubbins

13 Grandmothers Share Their Earthly Wisdom

— by Kristin Bender

They come from the Amazon, The Arctic Circle, Asia, Africa, Mexico and the Northwest, Southwest and Midwest sections of North America. They are 13 women, ranging from their 50s to their 80s, with dozens of grandchildren among them.

In their villages, towns and cities they are spiritual activists, medicine women, tribal elders and advocates for sustaining indigenous ways of life.

Together, they form the International Counsel of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers with headquarters at the Center for Sacred Studies in Sonora, CA.

Their purpose is to offer the world an increasingly scarce resource: earthly wisdom and prayer.

Twice a year the council gathers in one of their homelands to discuss such environmental threats as the melting of the Arctic glaciers; the right of those in the Amazon rain forest to grow and use traditional medicines; the risks associated with arsenic in water; the unemployment, suicide and drug problems that affect Native Americans; the contaminated water in developing countries. Then they pray.

At 82, Agnes Baker Pilgrim is the oldest in the council and describes herself as the oldest Takelma Indian from southwest Oregon.

As part of her spiritual activism Baker Pilgrim revived 14 years ago the ancient sacred salmon ceremony on Oregon’s Rogue River and speaks out for the protection of

sacred waters worldwide.

“I hope everybody’s got the message that prayer works,” she said. “We can turn this world around.”



Credit: Marisol Villanueva/Int'l Counsel of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers

Kristin Bender is a newspaper reporter at the Oakland Tribune in Oakland, CA, and a freelance writer.

For the complete article, please visit www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/3398/context/cover/.

Also, visit: www.grandmotherscouncil.com/.

Food Share

The holiday season is upon us. It crept upon all of us with such flurry after the Labor Day weekend. ICCW Members on November 15, 2007 at the general meeting collected 100 pounds of food and collected \$75.00 for Food Share. Melody Scoble and Erin Ricci gathered the donation and delivered it to Food Share that afternoon. Scoble stated that the back of Food Share resembled a



small grocery store. People come in with their grocery lists and gather what they need.

Food Share anticipated that they would deliver 1,000 meals to families that were in need this Thanksgiving holiday on Monday and Tuesday of that week. Food Share continued to accept donations for any unexpected needs as they were still continuing to accept applications into the week of the Thanksgiving holiday.

ICCW Members are planning to

collect donations from its members again during the December General Meeting scheduled for December 13, 2007.

During this holiday season, blessings come in all sizes. Many people in our area have fallen on hard times.

Food Share will gladly accept any monetary donation or food. Please contact Food Share at (406) 443-3663 or drop by at 1616 Lewis Street, Helena.

Upcoming Events

Various subcommittees are just beginning to work on the 2007—2008 projects.

ICCW is sponsoring "Simplify the Holidays on December 4, 2007 at Noon—1:00 PM, Capitol, Room 102. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Events Subcommittee is looking into organizing a 2009 Candidate Forum this spring prior to Montana's primary election. In the past ICCW has sponsored such an event and felt that it was very informative for all who attended. Once additional information is formulated, it will be shared with

state agencies.

The Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization has kept in touch with ICCW members regarding spreading the word of their fundraising events. The annual Bowl-a-thon "Rock-n-Roll" is scheduled for January 26 and 27, 2008 at Sleeping Giant Lanes. ICCW members are planning to organize its own team this year. Many agencies in the past have had their own teams, as well. It is a worthy cause and loads of fun. Hope to see many state employees there.

BBBS also is scheduled to have

the annual Wine Crush on March 15, 2008 at the Helena Civic Center. The Wine Crush is a wine tasting event to also raise money for the services BBBS provides to the Helena community.

The Work-Life Balance and Preventative Health Subcommittees are working on several projects including the Race for the Cure event in 2008.

The Excellence in Leadership Awards ceremony is scheduled for May 28, 2008.

Stay tuned for additional information regarding ICCW events.

For additional information please visit our web site at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/iccw>.

Training Resources Reviews

ICCW training materials that are available for check out:

Business Grammar & Usage for Professionals — If you freeze at the thought of writing a letter or panic before making a presentation, you're not alone. You can become a more effective communicator virtually overnight. Few things reflect on you and your organization as much as

powerful writing and speaking skills. You'll discover: the 25 words that rob your speech of forcefulness; how to use names and titles correctly; how to build your word power; visual tricks that help catch hard-to-find errors; five business communication "red flags"; and three critical steps to foolproof spelling.

Powerful Communication

Skills for Women — two 90-minute tapes. A review is not available at this time.

How to Manage Anger and Handle Conflict — two tapes, 47 minutes and 55 minutes. A review is not available at this time.

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/iccw/training>



ICCW

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Creating positive change for all state employees by promoting the full participation of women in state government.

Tentative Schedule for 2007-2008 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

December 13, 2007	Mitchell, Room 136
January 17, 2008	Walt Sullivan, Room 104
January 26 & 27, 2008	BBBS Bowl-A-Thon
February 21, 2008	Commerce, Room 24
March 15, 2008	BBBS Wine Crush
March 20, 2008	Mitchell, Room 136
April 17, 2008	Walt Sullivan, Room 104
May 14, 2008	Women's Health Fair, Capitol Rotunda
May 21, 2008	ELA, Capitol, Room 317
June 19, 2008	DEQ, Room 112

General Meetings will occur for the first 30 minutes of business. Subcommittee meetings will occur for the remaining 1 hour. Please make plans to attend the 1 1/2 hour session.

Visit ICCW on the web
www.mdt.mt.gov/iccw/

Giving Thanks

It is the hope that everyone had a festive Thanksgiving holiday. It can be assumed that a good majority of the population in America over indulged on turkey day — turkey, gravy, stuffing, potatoes, yams, vegetables, salads, cranberry sauce, rolls, pumpkin, berry or pecan pies with laughter, conversation, and camaraderie in abundance

around the table. It is also the hope that we all took a few moments to give thanks to our fore fathers, the Pilgrims who held a feast in the autumn of 1621 with the Wampanoag to celebrate the colony's first successful harvest. Counting our blessings

of family, shelter, food, transportation or utilities should also be savored for all that we have. There are others that are less fortunate than ourselves.

Thanksgiving being followed by Christmas means more indulgences. Decorations in our homes, yards, churches, and office; parties galore; food and drink in abundance; gifts to family, friends, and people we do not even know except on a gift tag; and worship, friendship, love, and caring. In the midst of indulgence there should be thankfulness and gratefulness.

During the holiday season, we must remember organizations that offer much assistance to our communities: Toys for Tots, Food Share, Adopt-a-Family, our soup kitchens, our shel-

ters, Friendship Center, Florence Crittenton Home, and many, many others that provide assistance to those in need.

May the season be good to us all — may we receive what our hearts desire or receive what we need.



"The First Thanksgiving" painted by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863-1930)



Seasons Greetings to All!